

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIA-06

ISO-00 EUR-12 NEA-09 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 OIC-02

AF-06 H-01 L-02 SCCT-01 /062 W

----- 048310

P R 271006Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6172

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 02174

NESCO

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNESCO, US, IS, XF

SUBJECT: ARAB LEAGUE EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC

ORGANIZATION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING RE

UNESCO

1. SUMMARY. ALECSO PERMREP TO UNESCO INFORMALLY ADVISED PERMDEL THAT RECENT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING FORMALLY RECOMMENDED THAT THEIR MEMBER STATES SHOULD URGE NON-ARAB MEMBER STATES TO SUPPORT UNESCO DECISIONS IN CULTURAL PRESERVATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS AREAS, ESTABLISH FUNDS-IN-TRUST FOR AID TO LDC'S AND ACT FAVORABLY ON POSSIBLE UNESCO REQUESTS FOR NO INTEREST LOANS. ALECSO SAID TO HAVE INTENTIONALLY AVOIDED MENTION  
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IN ITS RESOLUTIONS OF ISSUE OF ISRAELI MEMBERSHIP

IN UNESCO'S EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP IN ORDER TO LEAVE OPEN POSSIBILITY OF ACTION ON THIS ISSUE THAT MIGHT MEET CONCERNS OF US AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES.

2. DR. AHMED SOROUR, ALECSO PERMREP TO UNESCO, TOLD DELOFF JANUARY 24 THAT THE 13TH SESSION OF ALECSO'S EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD IN ABU DHABI (JANUARY 4 TO 12) WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY DECISIONS CONCERNING UNESCO AND REACTIONS TO UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE DECISIONS IN NOVEMBER.

3. SOROUR SAID HE WOULD BE SENDING CIRCULAR NOTICE TO ALL MEMBER STATE PERMDELS HERE ADVISING OF ALECSO DECISIONS (TEXTS OF WHICH HE PERSONALLY DRAFTED) RE UNESCO, WHICH: (A) EXPRESS ARAB SUPPORT FOR UNESCO'S 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE DECISIONS BEARING ON "HUMAN RIGHTS" (IMPLICITLY THOSE OF ARABS IN GOI-OCCUPIED TERRITORIES) AND "PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE" (IMPLICIT REFERENCE TO SANCTIONS OF GOI FOR JERUSALEM EXCAVATIONS); (B) URGE ARAB STATES TO APPROACH OTHER MEMBER STATES TO UNDERTAKE DEMARCHES TO THOSE MEMBER STATES (UNDEFINED) WHICH HAVE THREATENED PARTIAL OR TOTAL CUTOFFS OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNESCO AND TO URGE SUCH STATES NOT TO FOLLOW THROUGH IN THE "INTEREST OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION"; (C) URGE OPEC MEMBERS OF ARAB LEAGUE TO CONSIDER FAVORABLY ANY POSSIBLE REQUEST BY UNESCO FOR NO-INTEREST LOANS; AND (D) CALL UPON ARAB STATES TO CREATE A SPECIAL FUNDS-IN-TRUST TO AID DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

4. MOST INTERESTINGLY, SOROUR TOLD DELOFF THAT ISRAELI MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNESCO EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP HAD BEEN CONSIDERED BY ALECSO'S EXECUTIVE BOARD AS "NOT AN ARAB ISSUE" AND THEREFORE NOT CITED IN THE ALECSO EXBD SESSIONS. INDEED, SOROUR SAID THAT ALTHOUGH ARAB STATES WOULD BE OBLIGED TO VOTE AGAINST, POSSIBLY SOME COULD EVEN ABSTAIN, ON THIS ISSUE WHEN IT MIGHT NEXT ARISE IN UNESCO, IT WAS FELT THAT THIS WAS AN AREA THAT COULD POSSIBLY OFFER "A WAY OUT" OF THE PRESENT CRISIS FOR THE US AND OTHER MEMBER STATES THAT HAD SO STRONGLY OPPOSED ARAB-MOSLEM INITIATIVES ON THE OTHER

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DECISIONS VOTED THROUGH UNESCO'S GC IN NOVEMBER. HE STRESSED, AND DELOFF AGREED, THAT THERE COULD BE NO EXPLICIT MENTION OF ISRAEL AS THE INTENDED BENEFICIARY OF SUCH ACTION.

5. RE FUNDS-IN-TRUST FOR LDC'S, SOROUR CANDIDLY EXPLAINED THAT THESE ARE INTENDED TO REPAY LDC'S FOR THEIR SUPPORT ON ARAB INTEREST ISSUES. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE

SAID ALECSO MEMBER STATES HAD AGREED IN ABU DHABI THAT THEY WOULD NOT OFFER EITHER GRANTS OR LOANS TO UNESCO IN ORDER TO PRECLUDE ACCUSATIONS OF UNESCO BEING BOUGHT BY ARAB OIL MONEY. NO INTEREST LOANS WOULD BE MADE ONLY UPON SPECIFIC FORMAL APPLICATION BY UNESCO; MOREOVER UNESCO WOULD HAVE TO ADDRESS SUCH REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE TO ALL MEMBER STATES AND NOT JUST ARAB MEMBER STATES ALONE.

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6. SOROUR NOTED THAT THE ISRAELI EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP MEMBERSHIP QUESTION HAD BEEN DECIDED AT THE 18TH GC WITHOUT "CAREFUL DELIBERATION" BY THE ARAB COUNTRIES. DELOFF OBSERVED THAT DENIAL OF ISRAELI MEMBERSHIP IN

UNESCO EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP HAD ELICITED PARTICULARLY SHARP PROTESTS FROM WESTERN INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITIES, AND THAT, PROVIDED WESTERN EUROPEANS MIGHT ENVISION A CORRECTIVE INITIATIVE AT NEXT UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD SESSION IN MAY, IT WOULD BE VERY IMPORTANT THAT ARAB STATES DID NOT LOBBY AMONG LDC'S AND OTHERS FOR VOTES IN SUPPORT OF NEGATIVE STANCE THAT ARABS MIGHT ADOPT. HOWEVER, DELOFF CAREFUL TO STRESS THAT THIS PERSONAL SPECULATION AND THAT US AND OTHER WESTERN STATES ARE STILL IN THE STAGE OF ANALYZING ALL POSSIBLE APPROACHES  
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TO MEETING THE SITUATION CREATED BY GC DECISIONS ON ISRAEL. FURTHER, DELOFF EMPHASIZED CONTINUING INTENSE US PUBLIC AND ESPECIALLY CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN UNESCO GC ACTION CONCERNING ISRAEL.

7. COMMENT: SOROUR'S REMARKS SUPPORT OUR ANALYSIS THAT GOI AND EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP IS ISSUE OFFERING POSSIBILITY FOR CORRECTIVE ACTION. HIS COMMENTS ARE A SIGNIFICANT FOLLOW-UP TO SIMILAR OBSERVATIONS SOROUR VOLUNTEERED TO DELOFF SHORTLY AFTER THE END OF THE UNESCO 18 GC. HOWEVER, IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT SOROUR IS EGYPTIAN AND THAT EGYPTIANS WERE CONSISTENTLY THE MOST MODERATE AND FLEXIBLE AMONG THE ARAB STATES DURING THE RECENT GC BUT WERE ULTIMATELY OBLIGED TO FOLLOW ARAB HARDLINERS LED BY SAUDI DELEGATION AND PLO OBSERVER MISSION. NEVERTHELESS APPARENT ALECSO ENDORSEMENT OF APPROACH TO UNESCO GC DECISIONS ON ISRAEL THAT IMPLICITLY LEAVES DOOR OPEN ON EUROPEAN REGION ISSUE MAY WORK IN FAVOR OF MODERATING ARAB STANCE SHOULD ISSUE BE RAISED IN UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD CONTEXT.

8. PERMDEL WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED BY DEPARTMENT AND ADDRESSEES OF ANY ARAB REACTIONS TO ABOVE ALECSO DECISIONS WHICH, TO PERMDEL KNOWLEDGE, HAVE NOT HAD ANY PUBLICITY IN WESTERN PRESS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Event:**  
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**Page Count:** 4  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <19 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ARAB LEAGUE EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING RE  
**TAGS:** PORG, US, IS, XF, ALECSO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006